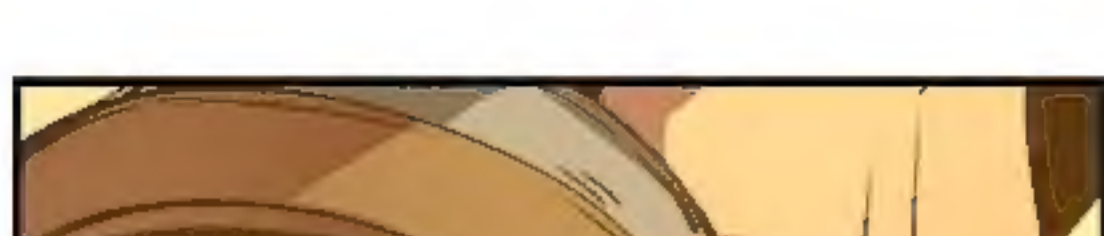


Solo Leveling

Art · DUBU (REDICE STUDIO)
Original Novel · Chugong
Story · h-goon

19







LOOKS LIKE
THEY STOPPED
CONSTRUCTION NOT
TOO LONG AGO.

I HEARD IT'S
BEEN TWO MONTHS
SINCE THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE COMPANY TOOK
900 BILLION WON
AND FLED THE
COUNTRY.

ALL THE
EMPLOYEES AND
INVESTORS ARE IN
PANIC MODE.

WHY ARE YOU
TELLING ME
THIS...?

ISN'T
THAT BACKPACK
HEAVY? ARE YOU
OKAY?

UH... YES, IT'S
MANAGEABLE.

THANKS TO
MY STRENGTH
STATS, THIS IS
A PIECE OF
CAKE...

SQUEEZE

YOU'RE OLDER
THAN ME, SO NO
NEED TO BE SO
FORMAL.





OOH!

THE
ENTRANCE
IS A BIT WIDE,
ISN'T IT?

YEAH, THIS
KIND OF GATE
IS PRETTY
RARE.



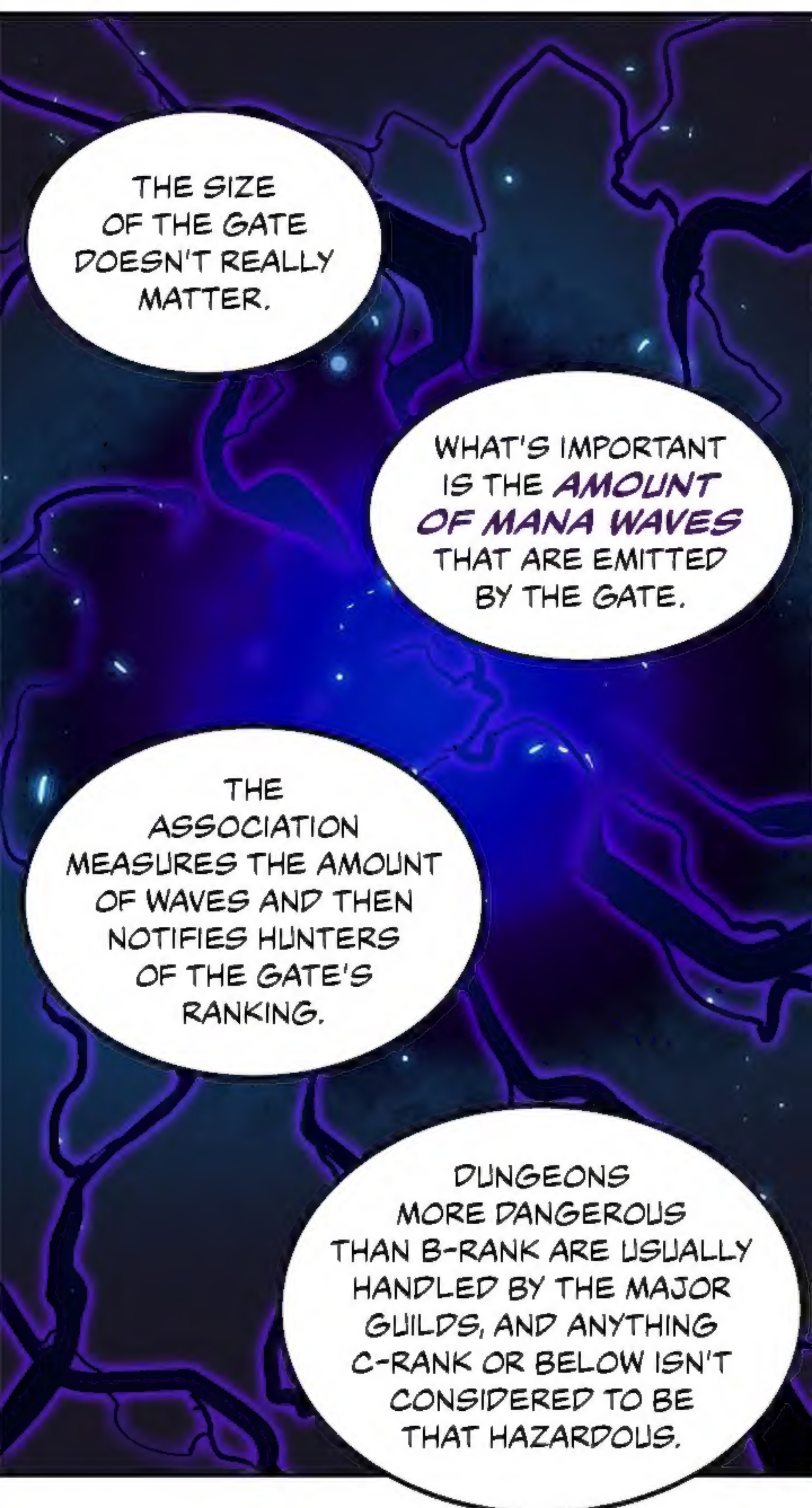
DONGSUK,
YOU SURE THIS IS
A C-RANK GATE?
LOOKS MASSIVE.

OF COURSE I'M
SURE. WHY WOULD
THE ASSOCIATION LIE
TO US? I HEARD THE
SURVEYORS EVEN
CAME BY TO TAKE
A LOOK.



JINWOO,
THIS GATE SEEMS
KIND OF BIG. DO YOU
THINK IT'S SAFE
TO GO IN?

IS THIS
YOUR FIRST
TIME?



THE SIZE
OF THE GATE
DOESN'T REALLY
MATTER.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT
IS THE **AMOUNT
OF MANA WAVES**
THAT ARE EMITTED
BY THE GATE.

THE
ASSOCIATION
MEASURES THE AMOUNT
OF WAVES AND THEN
NOTIFIES HUNTERS
OF THE GATE'S
RANKING.

DUNGEONS
MORE DANGEROUS
THAN B-RANK ARE USUALLY
HANDLED BY THE MAJOR
GUILDS, AND ANYTHING
C-RANK OR BELOW ISN'T
CONSIDERED TO BE
THAT HAZARDOUS.



I SAY THIS,
BUT...

...THIS
IS ALSO MY
FIRST TIME GOING
INTO A C-RANK
GATE...





BAM

OKAY!

SPARKLE

SPARKLE

USUALLY,
D-RANK OR E-RANK
HUNTERS LIKE ME DON'T
MAKE MUCH MONEY, SO
WE'RE BARELY ABLE TO
AFFORD A WEAPON, LET
ALONE ARMOR...

HOW DOES A
D-RANK HUNTER
HAVE SUCH NICE
EQUIPMENT?!

SPARKLE

SPARKLE

LET'S
GO!

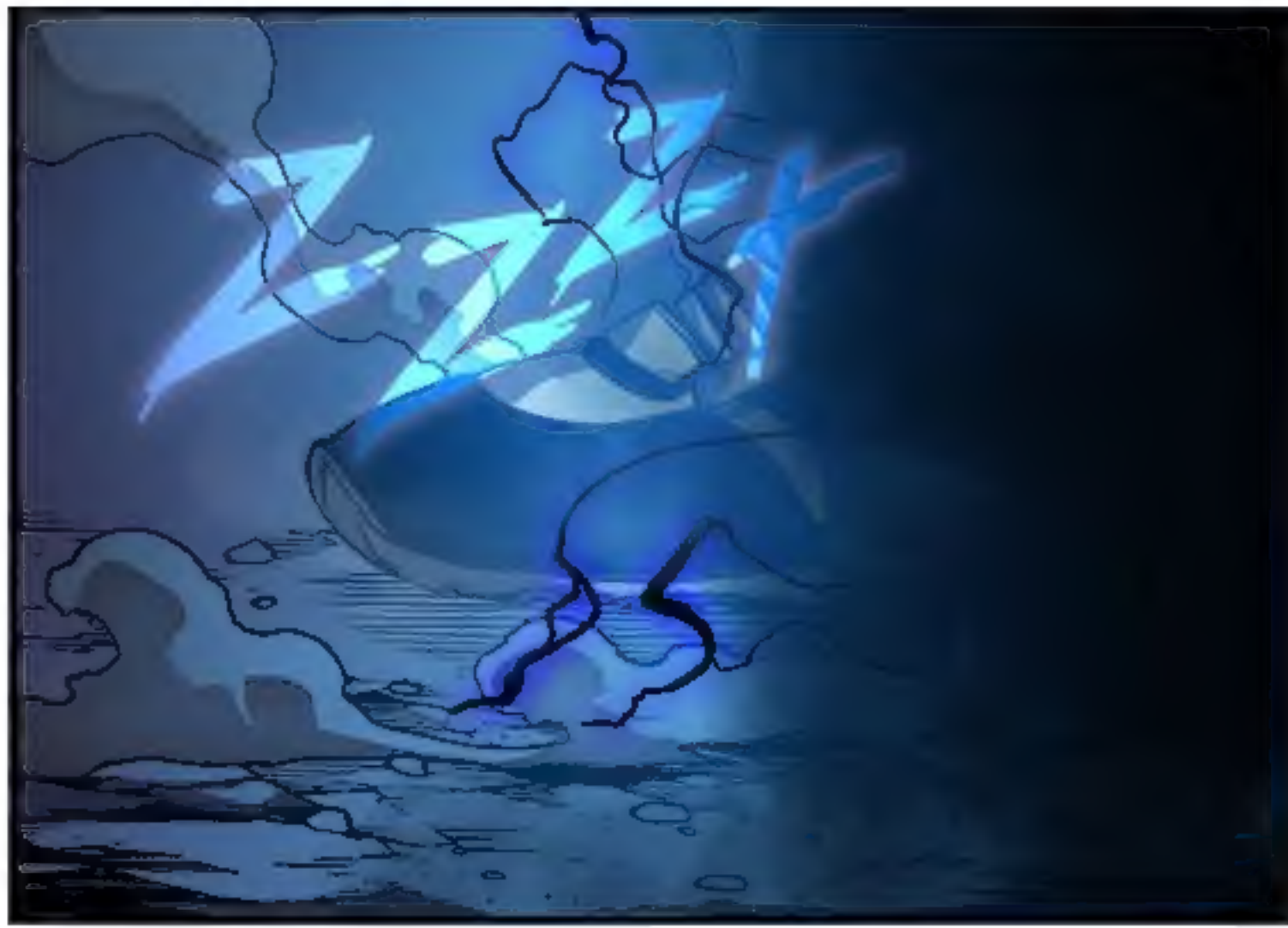
SHABBY

OKAY... BUT
LET'S NOT WALK
RIGHT NEXT TO
EACH OTHER.

LOOKS LIKE
THE PAY'S NOT BAD,
CONSIDERING THE
STRIKE SQUAD IS A
PRIVATE ENTITY.

EVERYONE SEEMS
TO HAVE PROPER
EQUIPMENT...





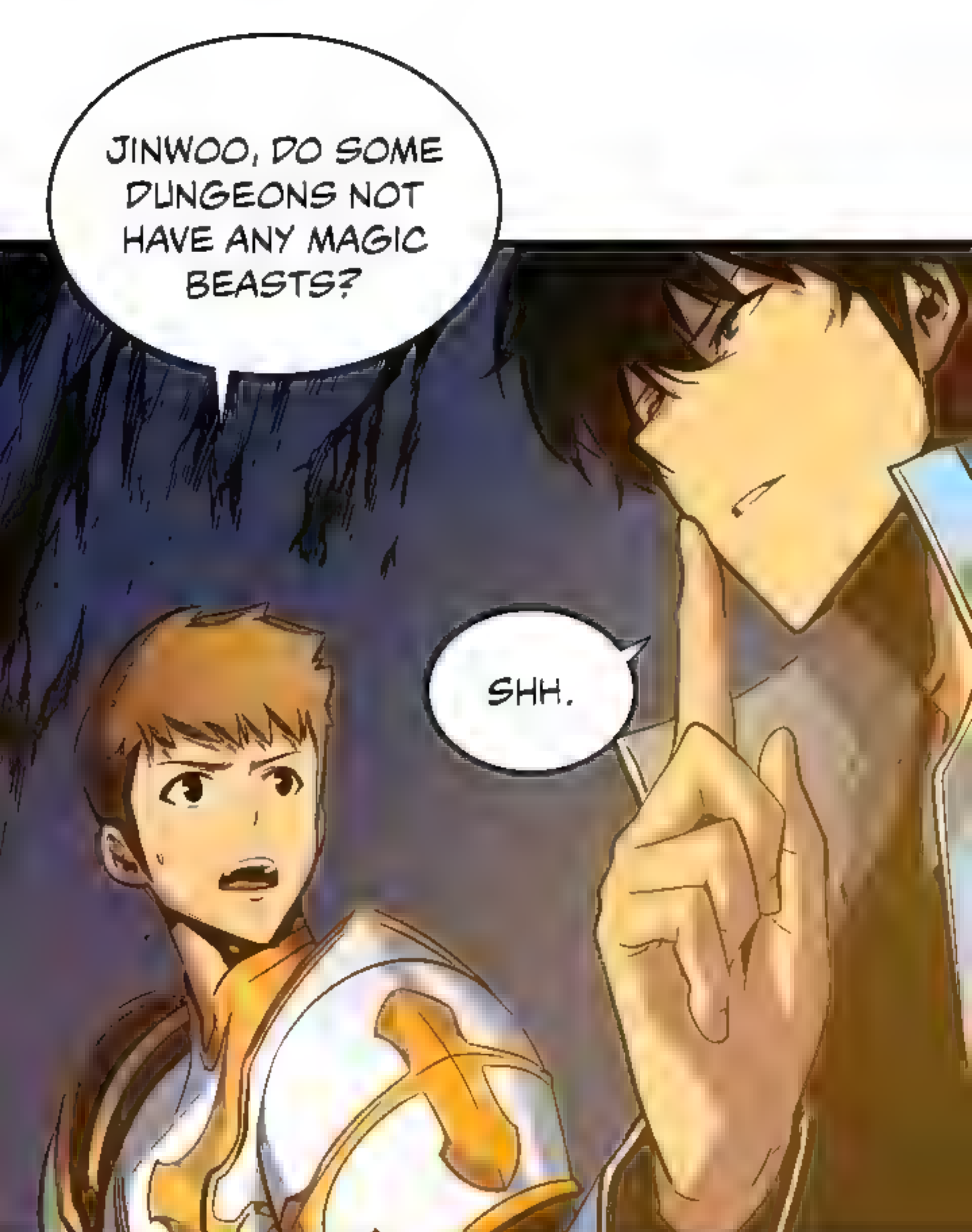


WHAT IS THIS PLACE...?

WHY AREN'T THERE ANY MAGIC BEASTS?

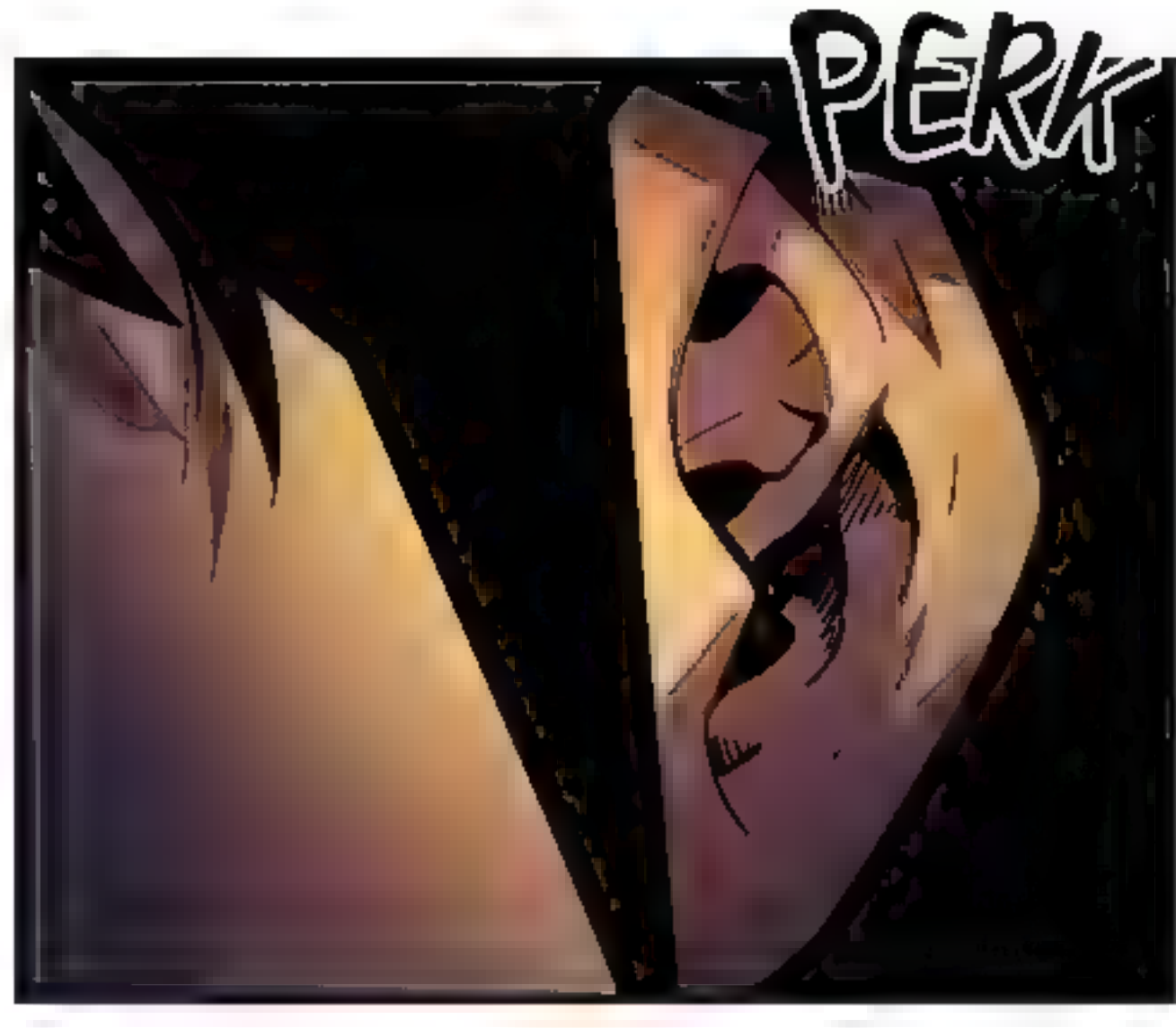
BEATS ME. ALL THE LIGHTS WERE OFF, TOO.

DUNGEONS NORMALLY HAVE SEVERAL GLOWING STONES ON THE WALLS. WEIRD.



JINWOO, DO SOME DUNGEONS NOT HAVE ANY MAGIC BEASTS?

SHH.



PERK



RUMBLE



THE FACT THAT THERE AREN'T ANY GLOWING STONES MEANS THAT THE MAGIC BEASTS IN THIS DUNGEON LIKE DARKNESS.

IT'S NOT THAT THERE AREN'T ANY BEASTS, THEY JUST HAVEN'T SHOWN UP YET.



INTELLIGENT BEASTS WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY SURVIVING IN A DUNGEON THAT'S COMPLETELY DARK.



AND IF THESE ARE BEASTS THAT CAN SURVIVE IN THE DARK, THEY PROBABLY DON'T RELY ON THEIR EYESIGHT.



WHAT LIVES IN THE DARK IN GROUPS, AND ATTACKS WHEN THEY SEE LIGHT?

THIS NOISE IS....!





INSECT-TYPE
BEASTS!!



INSECTS?!

RUMBLE

ARE WE
INSIDE OF AN
ANT-HILL?

RUMBLE

STOP
FREAKING US
OUT, MAN!



SOUNDS
LIKE THEY'RE
CLOSE!

RUMBLE

WHAT'S GOING
ON? WHY CAN'T
I SEE THEM?!

THERE
ARE TOO MANY
CAVERNS!

DONGSUK!
CAN YOU SEE
ANYTHING FROM
OVER THERE?!

NO,
I DON'T SEE
A THING!!



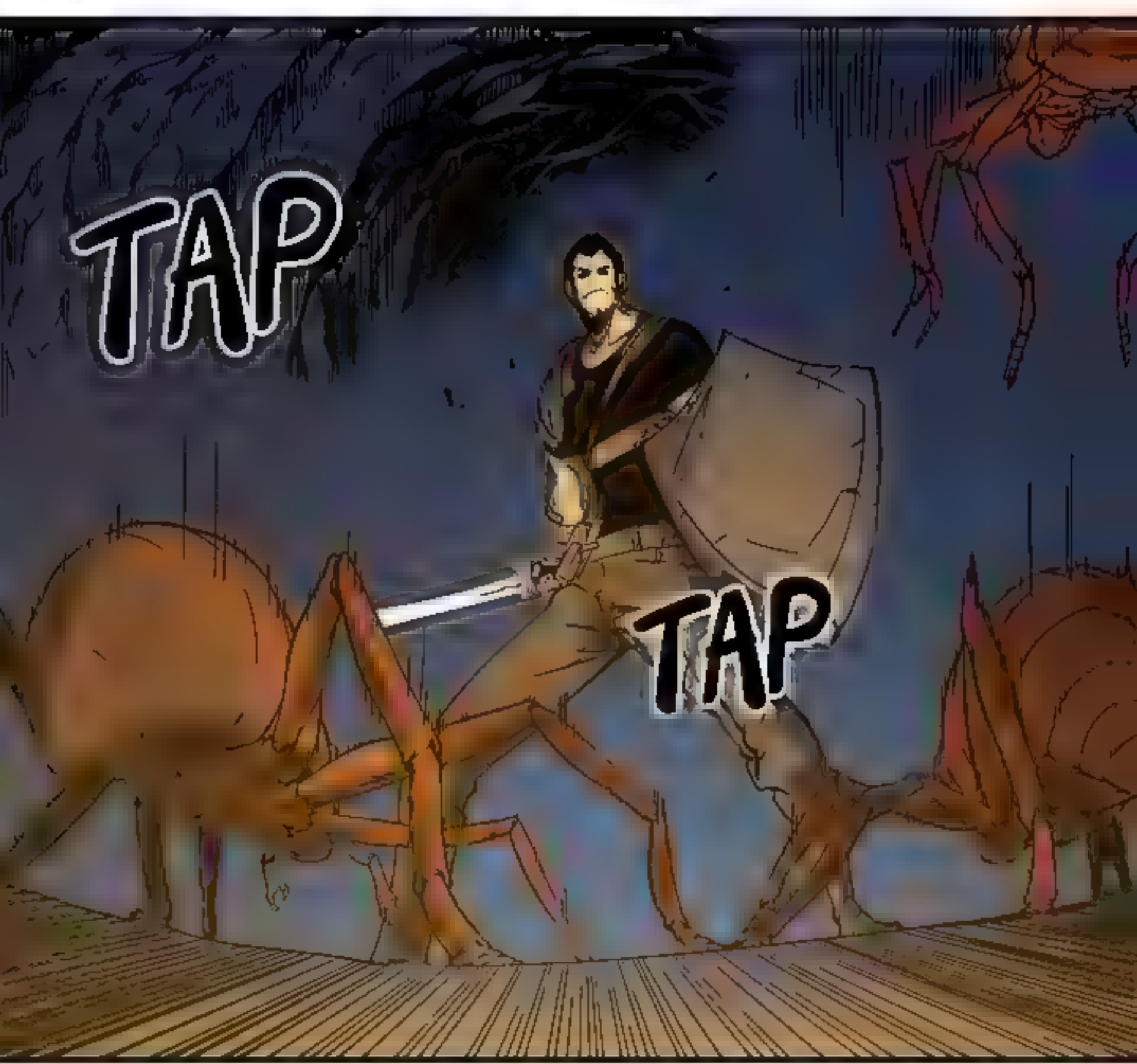


AND DRAW THEIR
ATTENTION WHEN
THEY GET DOWN
HERE!

RUMBLE

THERE'S
TOO MANY OF
THEM!!

RUMBLE





THAT'S RIGHT!
OVER HERE! YOU
DAMN BUGS!





C-RANK
HUNTERS
ARE PRETTY
IMPRESSIVE!

THEY CHAIN
THEIR ATTACKS
SO WELL.

I GET
WHY THIS STRIKE
SQUAD DIDN'T
BRING A HEALER
ALONG.

JINSUK,
11 O'CLOCK!

DONGSUK!
WATCH YOUR
RIGHT!

HWANG DONGSUK,
THE SQUAD LEADER,
IS DOING A REALLY
GOOD JOB AS
THE TANK...

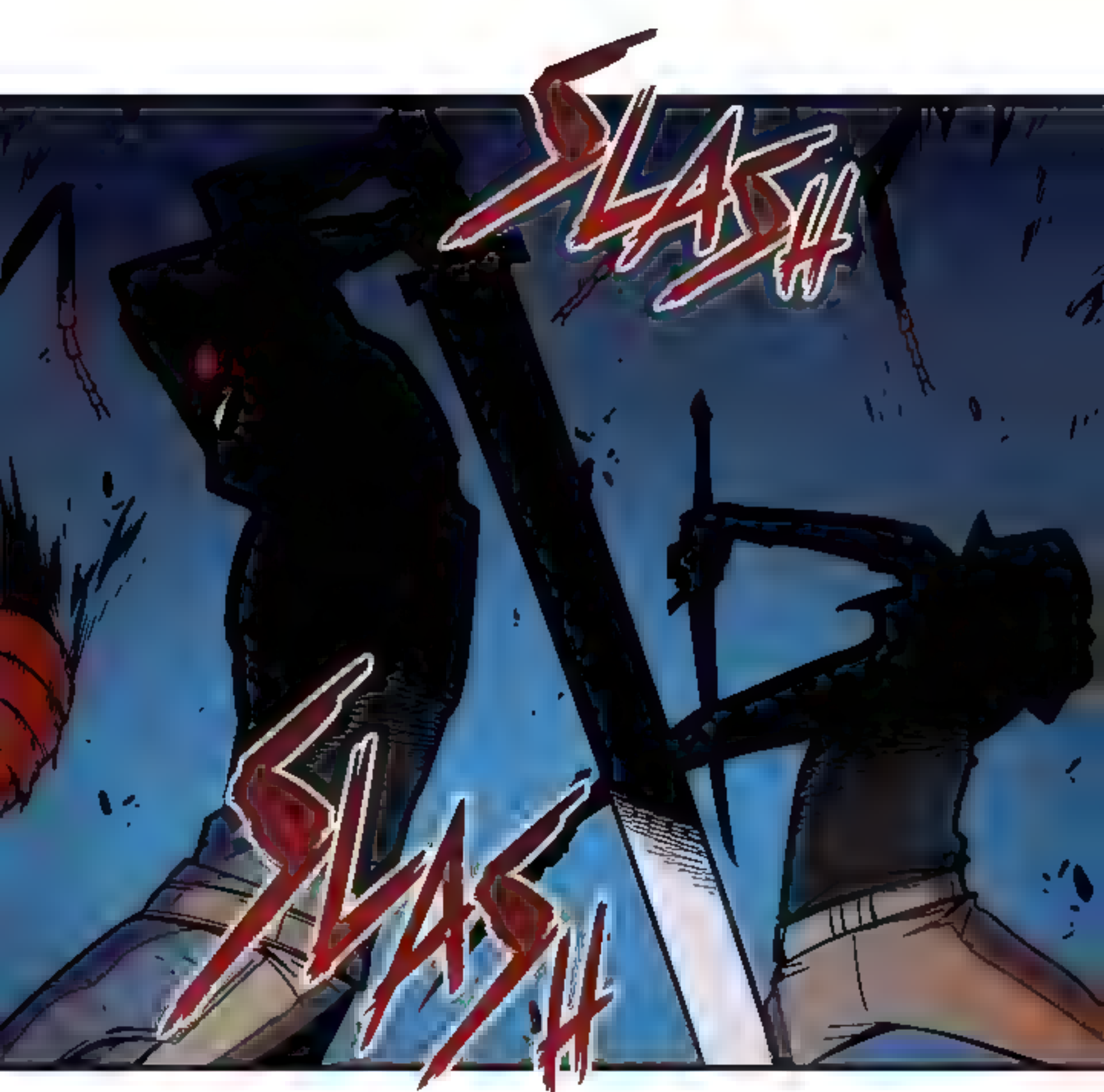
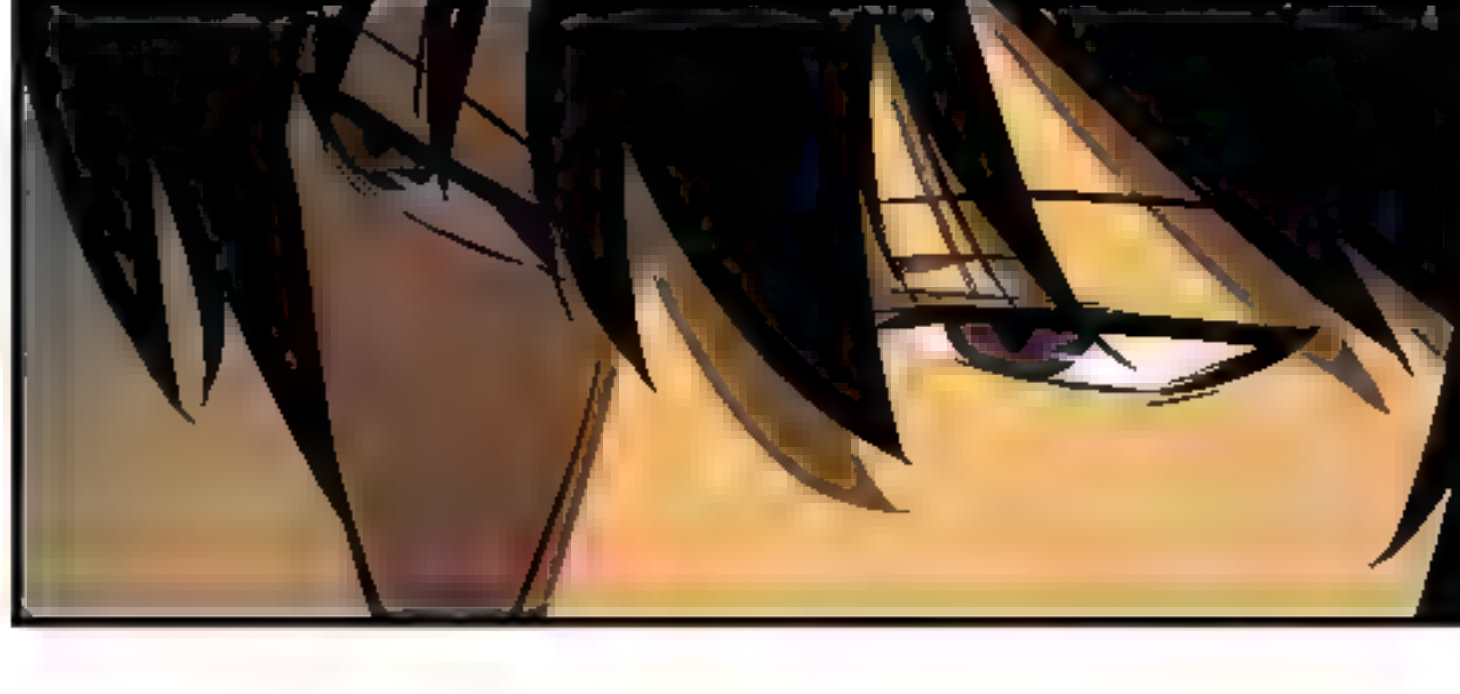
...AND THE
DEALERS HAVE
GOOD TIMING,
TOO.

THEY'VE
PROBABLY BEEN
WORKING TOGETHER
AS A TEAM FOR
A LONG TIME.

JOONTAE,
SUKMIN,
KYUHWAN! YOU
GUYS TAKE THE
RIGHT SIDE!

OKAY!!

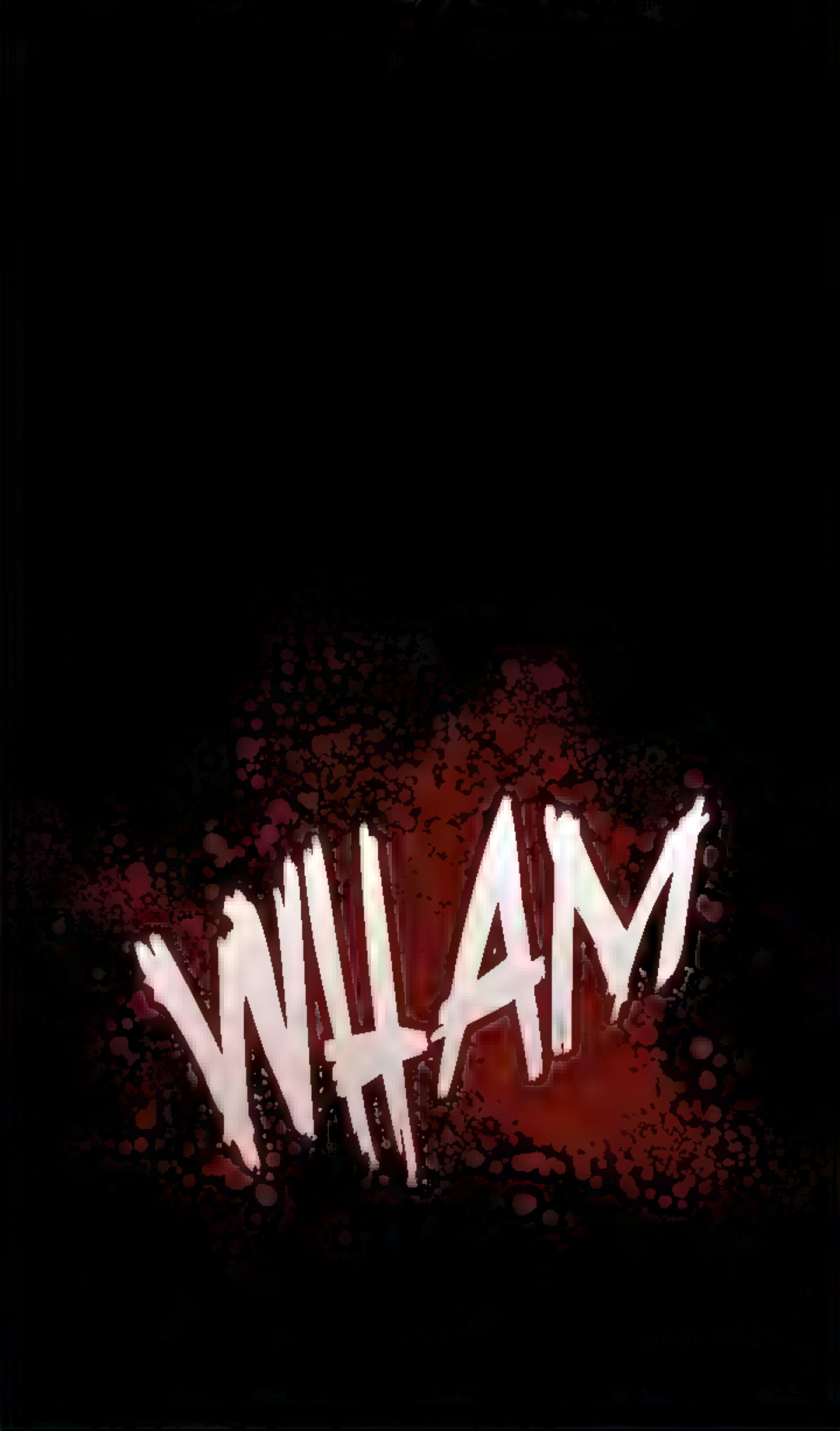
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE
NOT USED TO FIGHTING WITH
A HEALER, BUT...

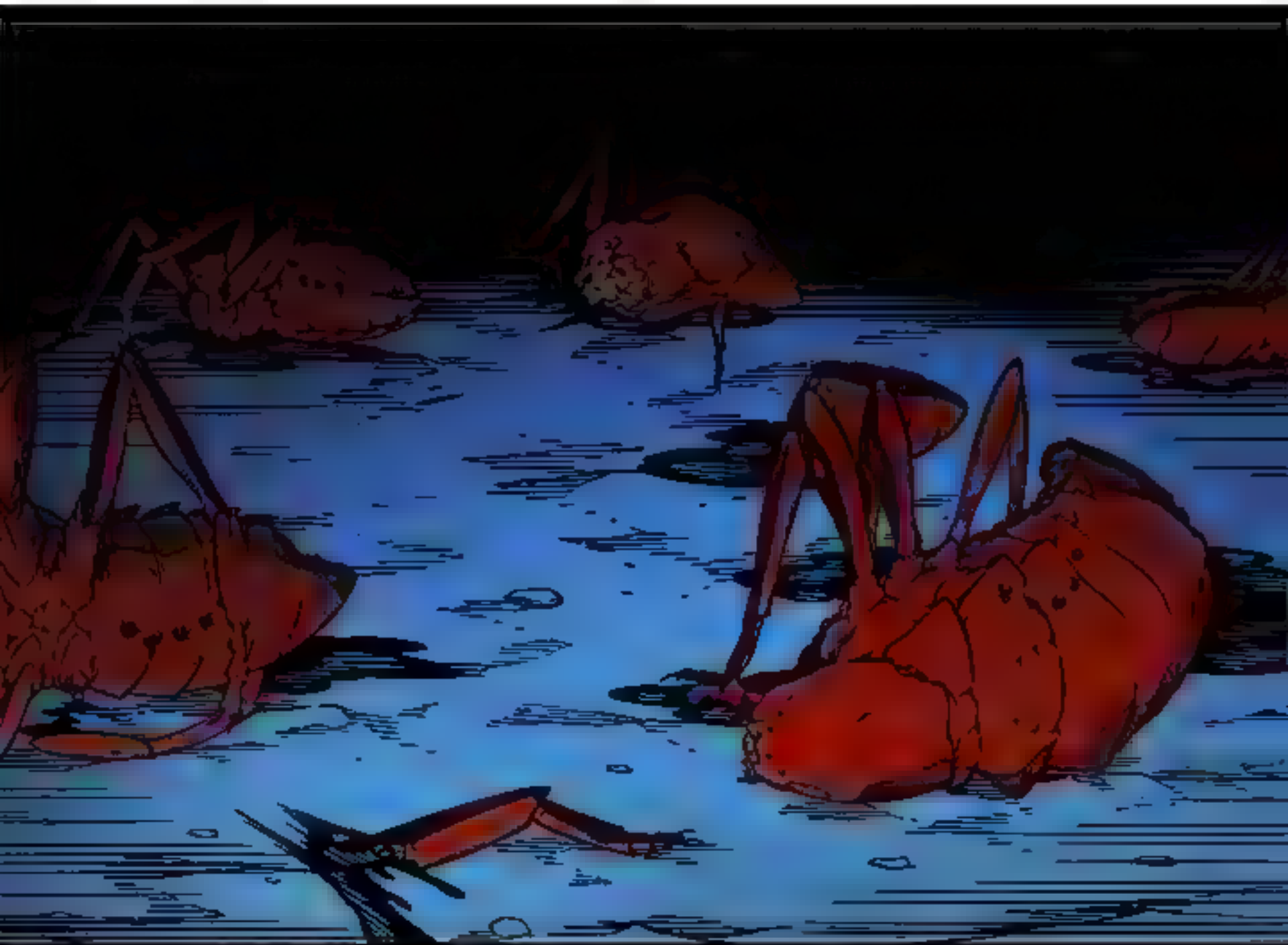


...THEY'RE A BIT ROUGH.

AS FOR
YOO JINHO...
HIS FANCY EQUIPMENT
MAKES UP FOR HIS
LACK OF SKILLS AND
EXPERIENCE.







GATHER UP ALL OF THE ESSENCE STONES! THEY'LL BE SPLIT AMONG THE NINE OF US!






LOOK AT THE
WOUNDS ON THESE
BEASTS.

THEY'RE NOT
SWORD WOUNDS.
THESE WEREN'T
ATTACKED
BY US.

RIGHT? THE
BURNS WEREN'T
CAUSED BY MAGIC,
EITHER.


SEEMS
LIKE THEY'VE
BEEN RIPPED APART
BY SOMETHING.
LOOK, THEY'RE
ALL OVER THE
PLACE.

THEY WERE
ALREADY TORN TO
PIECES BEFORE
WE FOUGHT
THEM?



WERE THE MAGIC
BEASTS FIGHTING
EACH OTHER OVER
TERRITORY?

THEN THAT MEANS
THERE ARE BEASTS
IN HERE THAT ARE
STRONGER THAN
THESE ONES...



COULD IT
BE THE BOSS?
OR...



...SMELLS LIKE MONEY.





JINHO.



YOUR SWORD
AND SHIELD ARE
EXPENSIVE,
RIGHT?

WHAT?
OH, YES. MY DAD
GOT THEM FOR ME
SINCE THIS IS MY
FIRST RAID.



I'M NOT
TOO SURE,
BUT...

...I THINK
WE SHOULD BE
CAREFUL.

WHAT IS THIS?



WHAT IS THIS OMINOUS
FEELING...?

To Be Continued...

Solo Leveling

D&C
WILTCOM

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